

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 574 without my signature.

I support California's strong anti-smoking programs, as evidenced by my support for several anti-smoking bills over the last several years. I signed legislation that prohibited smoking in a vehicle with children; increased the fines and penalties for selling tobacco products to underage minors; and banned tobacco products in our state correctional facilities and state hospitals. I also support California's strong anti-smoking program and included funds for a stronger smoking cessation program in my 2007 health care reform proposal.

However, this bill is unnecessary. Current law already prohibits smoking in hospital patient care areas, waiting rooms and visiting rooms of a health facility. Hospitals also have the ability to further restrict smoking on their campuses to include open-air areas such as patios, parking lots and sidewalks.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger